

Building Boom

Campus experiencing historic period of growth

Visiting
50 states
in **7 days**

Lions working **abroad**

Catching up with the NFL's **Brandon Williams**



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear alumni and friends,

Welcome to the Fall 2015 issue of Crossroads magazine.

As you may have noticed, the Missouri Southern State University magazine has a new look and a new feel ... and, along with that, a new mission. Crossroads – which is published each fall and spring – has become part of our greater effort to connect with our community, our alumni and our growing support base.

As such, this issue may be the first time you've heard from us since crossing the stage to receive your diploma and begin life's next chapter.

We hope that as you turn the pages, you'll get a sense of the great things happening on campus. There are new buildings and additional academic programs. There are new faces and old friends. There are stories of student success both in and out of the classroom. And, of course, incredible accomplishments by our alumni. You'll find all of that and more in this issue.

But not everything Crossroads has to offer can be found on the page. When you see this symbol –  – let it guide you to our online edition, where additional features such as photo galleries and videos can be found. You can read it at <http://crossroads.mssu.edu>.

Whether you're an alum or a friend to the university, you are a valued member of the Lion Family. We look forward to keeping you up to date with news and features from Missouri Southern in coming issues.

Until next time,

Editor
Crossroads Magazine
Missouri Southern State University



***“No spring nor summer beauty
hath such grace, as I have seen
in one autumnal face.”***

– John Donne, English poet

MISSOURI SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



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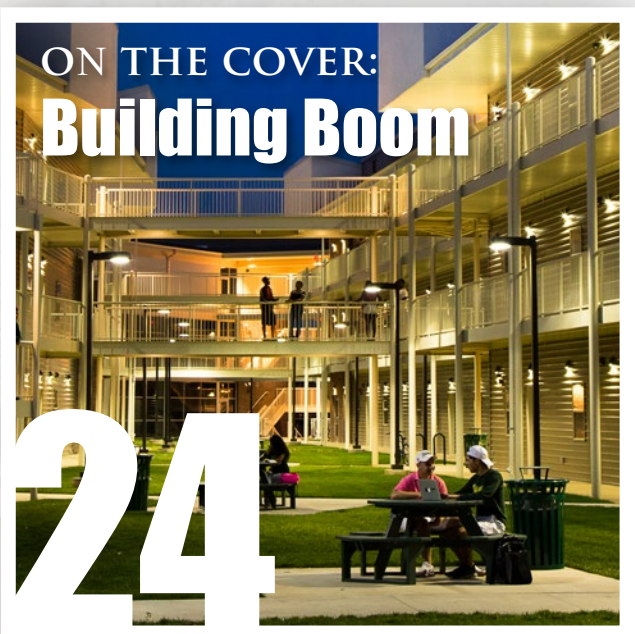
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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow Lions and friends of Missouri Southern,

In business, the term “inflection point” refers to a time of significant change ... a turning point.

It’s a term that fits this point in time for Missouri Southern State University. As we continue to build upon the solid base the university has established over the last 78 years, we have hit an inflection point.

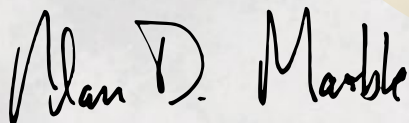
The evidence is all around us. Take a walk through the new North End Zone Facility and you’ll see what a game changer it is for our student-athletes. The Quads (as our new residence hall complex is known) has become a true home to more than 200 of our students. And the upcoming renovation project in Reynolds Hall will provide our students and faculty with a modern learning environment in line with the needs of the 21st century.

The changes on our campus are not just of a cosmetic nature. We’ve added master’s programs in accounting and teacher education, and new bachelor’s programs in social work and geography. We have a new, balanced approach to teaching, learning, research and scholarship, and we’re striving to make deeper connections to the local and regional community.

The higher aspirations we have for Missouri Southern include a partnership with the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences as they prepare to open a medical school in Joplin in 2017. We are also exploring funding for a potential dental school on campus through the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

There’s an exciting future ahead, and it’s one that we enthusiastically embrace. We hope you’ll join us.

With warmest regards,



Dr. Alan Marble, ‘79
President
Missouri Southern State University

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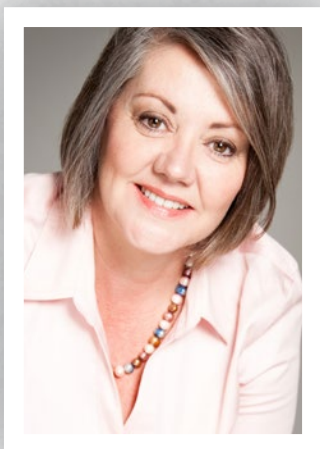
Jared Bruggeman,
Director of Athletics

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crossroads@mssu.edu

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WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!



Dear alumni and friends:

The Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association was established in 1945 to strengthen communication, loyalty and friendship among all alumni, faculty and staff, and all other friends of the university.

In representing university alumni, we believe:

- All alumni, including former students, should have access to the benefits of the Alumni Association
- Alumni should remain engaged with the university
- We are all members of the Missouri Southern family (JJC, MSC, MSSC and MSSU)
- Loyalty to our university is fulfilling
- Involvement can lead to greater support of the university

Because we believe these things, the MSSU Alumni Association is discontinuing its membership dues program. We are welcoming all 30,000 plus alumni as full members – a lifelong investment in Missouri Southern that centers on engagement and gives all alumni equal access to the Association's programs and services. Although we won't be asking you for membership dues, we will continue to rely on your support – attending events, volunteering for alumni programs and making a gift to the university.

We look forward to seeing you at the many events we are planning this year!

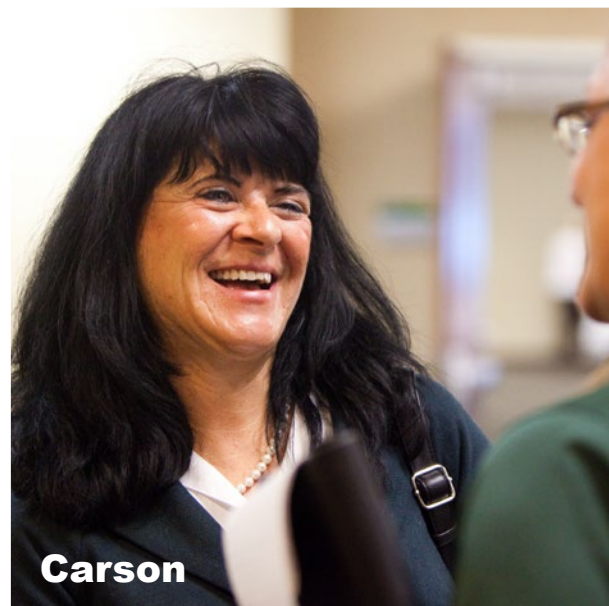
In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86

Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations



AROUND CAMPUS



Carson




Hodson

Hodson, Carson join Missouri Southern

The university welcomed **two new leaders** to its ranks earlier this year. Dr. Brad Hodson was appointed executive vice president, while Dr. Paula Phillips Carson was named as the institution's new provost/vice president for academic affairs.

Hodson leads a restructured division at Missouri Southern which brings together all of the offices responsible for the advancement of the university – Admissions, University Relations & Marketing, Governmental & Community Relations, Alumni Relations, Fundraising and Business Development.

Carson, a longtime administrator at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, joined Missouri Southern this summer, overseeing all academic programming and faculty as the university's chief academic officer. She stepped into the role following the retirement of Dr. Pat Lipira, who served as vice president for academic affairs since 2012. 

Foundation supports new medical school

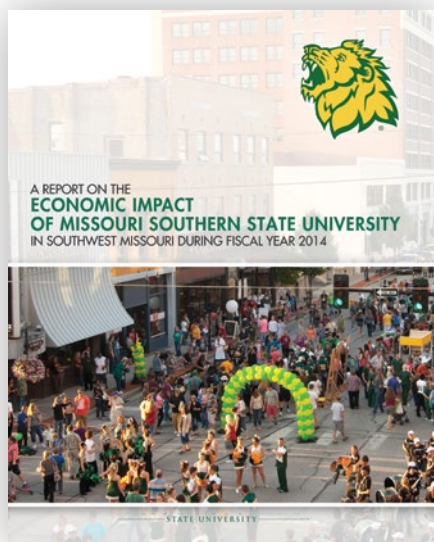
The Missouri Southern Foundation has approved a **\$250,000 gift** toward the creation of a Joplin campus for the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

The medical school, which is scheduled to open in August 2017, will be located in Mercy Hospital Joplin's former component facility at 2817 St. John's Blvd. It will enroll 150 students per year into the program.

An effort to raise the funds needed to open the Joplin campus has been underway for some time. The Foundation board approved the gift following a presentation by Rudy Farber, chairman of the Regional Medical School Alliance.

Dr. Alan Marble said that the medical school will strengthen the university's reputation for its high-caliber pre-med program and help attract more high-performing students. **C**

Study showcases university's economic impact **C**



The economic impact of Missouri Southern on Jasper County in 2013-14 was almost \$200 million, according to a recent **economic impact study**.

The study was commissioned in order to better quantify that financial impact and to effectively communicate the findings with local leaders and stakeholders.

It was conducted by Impact DataSource, a nationally recognized consulting, research and analysis firm in Austin, Texas.

IDS has conducted more than 2,500 economic impact studies for a variety of private and governmental clients, including universities such as North Dakota State, Texas A&M, Texas Christian, Ohio State, Mississippi and Minnesota State.

Among the study's key findings:

- Missouri Southern had a total economic impact on Jasper County of \$198.6 million in 2013-14. This included direct and indirect workers' earnings, economic output by the institution, and spending by visitors.
- MSSU directly employs 697 individuals with an additional 700 "spin-off" jobs in the local economy. Total workers' earnings for these 1,397 jobs was \$65.5 million.

- The direct financial impact of university operations on the economy was \$105.4 million. This takes the form of output or sales by the institution.
- Every MSSU student spends, on average, \$12,262 per year in Jasper County.
- 97,544 spectators and non-spectators visit MSSU's campus each year, generating \$13,215,177 in economic impact.

Dr. Alan Marble said the study's findings should not come as a surprise.

"From the money our students and employees spend in the region to the dollars that are generated as parents and fans attend events on campus, Missouri Southern is making a powerful fiscal impact," he said. **C**



Curtis, Marion honored as Outstanding Teachers

Dr. Charles Curtis, a mathematics professor, and Terry Marion, professor of business administration and management, were presented the **Outstanding Teacher awards** during the Fall 2015 faculty meeting on Aug. 14.

Also honored during the meeting was JJ Spurlin, Jr., who received the **Outstanding Advisor award**.

Students, faculty and alumni submit nominations for the awards, which recognize teachers who have made a positive impact at Missouri Southern. Curtis, Marion and Spurlin each received an engraved plaque and a \$1,000 award from the Missouri Southern Foundation. **C**

Project Stay receives five-year grant

The **Project Stay program** at Missouri Southern has received a federal grant that will continue funding its mission to help students succeed for the next five years.

Missouri Southern is one of 968 institutions of higher education that will have programs funded through the \$270 million awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year grant amounts to more

AROUND CAMPUS

continued

Project Stay

NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR DREAMS

documented disability – was launched in 2001 at the university. It provides one-on-one academic advising, tutoring, assistance with financial aid and other services designed to ease students' transition through college and onward.

The grant provides \$247,564 per year for the program at Missouri Southern. A large percentage of students participating in the program are freshmen who are the first in their immediate family to attend college. **C**

than \$1.2 million over the next five years for the TRIO Student Support Services program.

Project Stay – which accepts first-generation college students, those who meet an income guideline or have a

Southern Match creates new scholarships



A total of 30 new, **endowed scholarships** for students at Missouri Southern have been established through the Southern Match scholarship initiative.

The limited-time program was launched in April by the Missouri Southern Foundation in order to increase the value of new scholarships.

The Foundation set aside \$200,000 for the program, which placed an additional \$10,000 into each newly endowed scholarship created. Southern Match was initially limited to 20 new scholarships, but the program yielded more inquiries about participating. In August, the board approved additional funding, resulting in more scholarships being created.

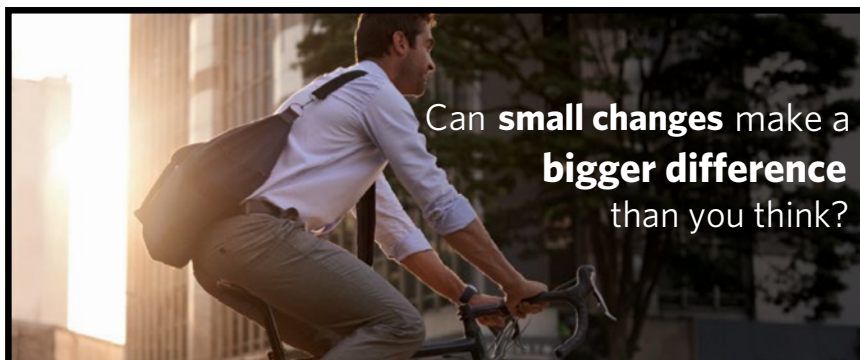
The 30 scholarships will provide assistance to students in a wide range of areas – from accounting and pre-dental to nursing and athletics. **C**

We want to hear from you!



Have a letter to the editor, news, a photo or a favorite Missouri Southern memory you'd like to share?

Contact us at
crossroads@mssu.edu.



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MISSOURI SOUTHERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

2/25/2016	Thursday	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Carthage Chamber After Hours	Mis Arcos	Carthage
3/2/2016	Wednesday	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Downtown KC Networking Lunch	TBD	Kansas City
3/2/2016	Wednesday	2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	MIAA Mid-Year Meeting	Kansas City	Kansas City
3/3/2016 - 3/6/2016	Thursday - Sunday	TBA	MIAA Basketball Tourney	Kansas City	Kansas City
3/10/2016	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Literary Lions	Spiva Library	Joplin
3/17/2016	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Literary Lions	Spiva Library	Joplin
3/29/2016	Tuesday	TBA	Dress for Success	BSC Connor Ballroom	Campus
3/30/2016	Wednesday	9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Grad Expo	Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center	
4/5/2016	Tuesday	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Southern Social	Scholarship Fundraiser	Joplin
4/7/2016	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Literary Lions	Spiva Library	Joplin
4/16/2016	Saturday	TBA	Legacy Day	Activity Day for Kids	Joplin
4/16/2016	TBA	TBA	5 K Alumni Run	Alums Run as Group	St. Louis
5/2016	TBA	TBA	St. Louis Cardinals Game	TBA	St. Louis
5/10/2016	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Teacher Ed. Reception	Taylor Hall	Campus
6/16/2016	Thursday	10 a.m.	Literary Lions	Spiva Library	Joplin

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BRING HOME ^{THE} *PRIDE*

MISSOURI SOUTHERN HOMECOMING 2015



Homecoming King: Kendric Carlock,
sophomore theater major

Homecoming Queen: Nicholette Wise,
senior criminal justice major

Outstanding Alumnus: Keifer Thompson, '96

Lion-Hearted Award: Julio and Vivian León

Reunions: Dental Hygiene,
English & Philosophy, Honors Program





Paint the Town Green & Gold winners:

Best Interior
TownePlace Suites Joplin

Best Exterior
LaFerla Ortho

Most Detailed
Homewood Suites by Hilton

Most Unique
Residence Inn Joplin

Most Spirited
Boys and Girls Club
of Southwest Missouri

Carl Junction Town Winner
Footprints & Friends
Preschool, Inc.

Carthage Town Winner
Fair Acres Family YMCA

Joplin Town Winner
Atlas Safe Rooms

Neosho Town Winner
Neosho Chamber
of Commerce

Webb City Town Winner
Henkle's Ace Hardware



'Very humbling'

Thompson Square's
Keifer Thompson receives
**2015 Outstanding
Alumnus Award**



Coming back to Missouri Southern was a special moment for Keifer Thompson.

"There's a certain feeling that happens when you drive back on campus," he said. "A lot of memories come floating back. I had a good time here."

Thompson, one half of the husband and wife music duo Thompson Square, was the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Missouri Southern Alumni Association. He and his wife, Shawna, have released two albums which produced a combined 10 chart singles on the Hot Country Songs and country airplay charts. Two of these singles, "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not" and "If I Didn't Have You" – reached No. 1 on the charts.

"We've been fortunate enough to win some awards, but this is a different thing for me," said Thompson. "College for me was a way of proving something to myself. No one in my family had graduated from college."

"I wasn't the honor roll student or involved in a lot of on-campus activities because I was always playing music. That was all I cared about."

After graduating in 1996 with his bachelor's in psychology, the Miami, Okla., native made a beeline for Nashville. In his first week in Music City, he met his future wife at a singing competition. It took nearly 13 years of performing and songwriting, but the Thompsons found success when they combined their musical talents and began working as a duo.

Thompson said they're in the midst of recording a new album as they prepare to take center stage on an entirely different project – parenthood.

He visited campus on Oct. 23 to speak to students and accept the Outstanding Alumnus award during the annual All-Alumni Dinner.

"It's a little weird to be receiving an award when people have gone on from here to do great academic things," he said. "To be recognized just for being from somewhere – and for coming out of a small area and doing something big – is very humbling and a little surreal."

But Lee Elliff Pound, director of the Alumni Association, said when it comes to recognizing Missouri Southern alumni, Thompson's success in the music business speaks for itself.

"All you have to do is take a look at Keifer's career and what he's been able to do," said Pound. "We couldn't be more proud of his accomplishments with his wife, Shawna. He's more than worthy of receiving this award." **C**

#50states 7days

**MSSU alum, campus videographer
complete record-breaking journey
across the country** 

Wednesday, July 15

2:35 p.m. CST

Somewhere in the middle of Utah

Phone reception is spotty, but after several tries, Brian Mehrens gets a phone signal to offer an update on his journey.

“We’re are in the middle of Utah ... state 43,” he says. “We’ve adjusted the route a couple of times, but we’re still on track.”

Mehrens, a videographer for the University Relations & Marketing department at Missouri Southern, is traveling the country with three friends in a quest to visit all 50 states in seven days.

Starting early in the morning on July 11 in Kittery, Maine, they began a route that will take them through the lower 48 states. If all goes well, they’ll reach Portland, Ore., on July 16 and catch a flight to Anchorage, Alaska. After a brief layover, they’ll fly to Hawaii – breaking the previous record (eight days and 20 minutes) for traveling to every state.

“I think it’s a little more grueling than we had previously expected,” says Chris Watson, a 2005 graduate of Missouri Southern. “I don’t think we anticipated how much time it would take to get to the road signs (and take pictures). And we’re not always on the interstate. The

last two nights, we were on roads where we didn’t see another car for two hours. But the landscape is amazing.

“It’s been awesome.”

Along with friends Josh Willis and Nate Williams, Mehrens and Watson have visited Europe, Africa and Canada, as well as more than 30 states. This time, they wanted to go bigger. By the time they have completed their journey, they’ll have driven more than 7,000 miles and spent 14 hours flying.

While Guinness World Records doesn’t certify a record for the fastest trip to all 50 states, Mehrens says that a group called the All Fifty States Club does recognize the accomplishment.

They’ve also found sponsors for their endeavor. Apparel company Tip-sy Elves has supplied them with patriotic onesies and other clothing as well as decals which cover their rented Ford Expedition (which, thankfully, has unlimited miles offered in the rental contract). Kodak also donated a camera which is being used to create a time-lapse video of their journey.

“We’re in the car all the time, posting to social media and pumping out material (including blog posts),” says Watson. “But I’m expecting to have a huge sense of accomplishment at the end.”

Friday, July 17

11 a.m. HST

Honolulu International Airport

As they disembark from the plane, it begins to sink in: They’ve broken the record – all 50 states visited in just six days, 17 hours and 31 minutes.

A huge sense of relief is how Mehrens describes the feeling.

“We can finally rest for a moment,” he says ... which is a bit of an understatement, as they plan to stay in Hawaii for several days of relaxation and sightseeing.

“I feel a sense of amazement that we accomplished this feat without any hiccups.”

The group is mentally and physically exhausted, and those Ameri-



can flag onesies have seen plenty of action (maybe too much, though it's nothing a good wash in cold water won't fix, says Mehrens), but the trip has been a success.

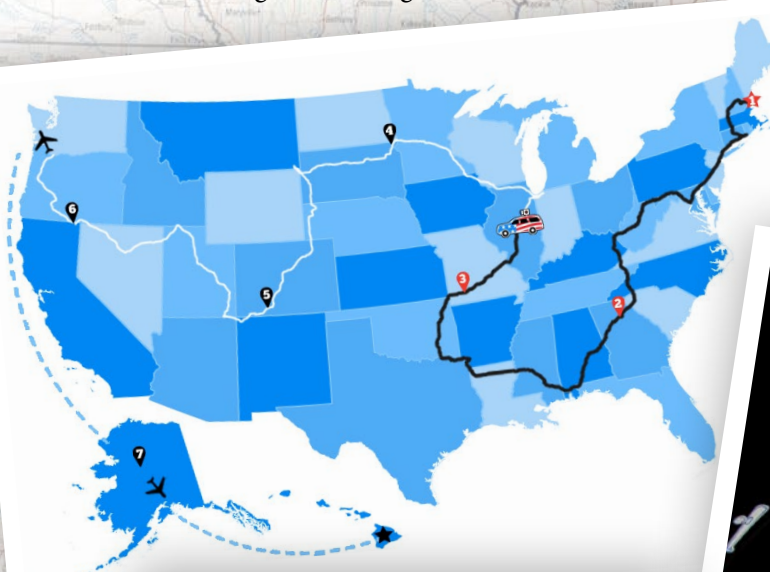
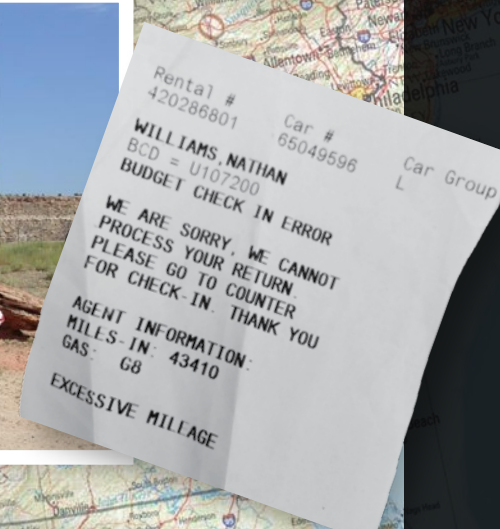
Local media outlets along the route definitely took note. The friends have given interviews jokingly comparing themselves to intrepid explorers such as Lewis and Clark, imbued with the spirit of America's pioneers and carried across the finish line by bald eagles swooping down from heaven ... a series of amazing quotes crafted as they drove across the country.

"You can't take yourself too seriously, otherwise it makes the trip boring," says Mehrens.

Their journey has concluded, and a sense of accomplishment is starting to set in. Where will they travel to next? How do they outdo themselves next time? Important questions, but they can wait.

"It's a really cool feeling," says Watson. "I can do anything with these three guys. We just did something many people will never do in their lifetime.

"Now ... let's go swimming." C





Spain Reigns

Faculty, departments help drive Spain Semester programming

There's really no other way to say it: ¡Viva España!

With events that ranged from a foot-stomping flamenco showcase to a dinner that highlighted the country's cuisine, the Spain Semester was a success, according to Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute for International Studies.

"The audience turnout has been greater for the Spain Semester than the majority of the other themed semesters," he said.

A record number of faculty members contributed to the slate of programming this year, said Stebbins.

Offerings included a talk on living as a foreigner in Cordoba, Spain, by communications lecturer Kisa Clark, an etching demonstration by art professor Burt Bucher, and a presentation by Dr. Bill Kumbier on Pablo Casals, renowned cellist and peacemaker.

Lectures were also offered by three members of the Spanish language faculty. Dr. Rubén Galve Rivera focused on "De-stereotyping Spain" in a lecture of the same title, Dr. Pedro Talavera-Ibarra recreated his experience on the Way of Saint James, and Dr. Susana Liso discussed the development of pop culture after the death of dictator Francisco Franco.

Dr. Jim Lile, chair of the Theater Department, discussed various artistic portrayals of "Don Quixote," while a personal presentation on flamenco dancing was offered by Dr. Joy Dworkin, chair of the English Department. The Campus Activities Board offered a Running of the Bulls-themed photo booth and free churros, while Sodexo dished up a full Spanish meal for "A Taste of Spain."

The Music Department offered two concerts featuring the country's

music, while the Theater Department staged "No Suicide in Springtime," an acclaimed production by Alejandro Casona.

"So many departments and different faculty members joined together to contribute roughly half of the programming," said Stebbins.


International trips gave students a deeper appreciation of the country's offerings.

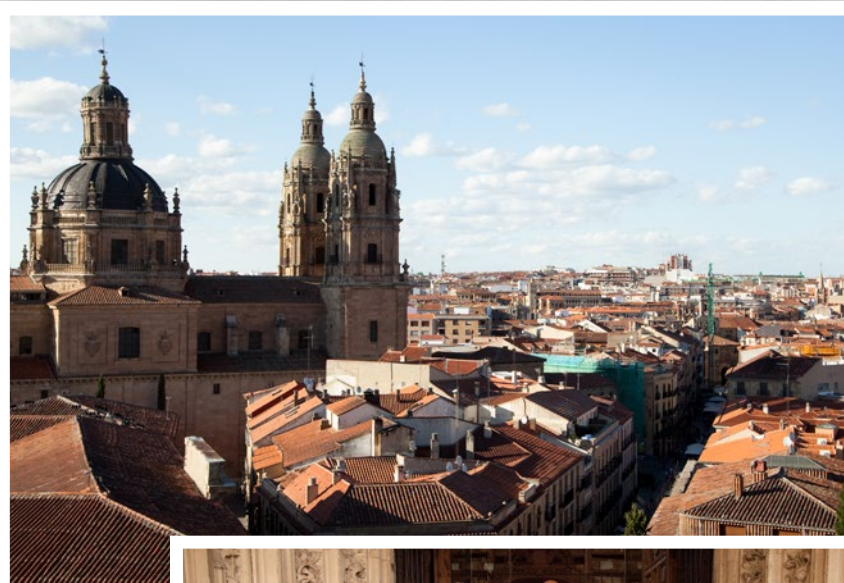
Over the summer, 14 students and several faculty members from Missouri Southern visited Spain, lived with Spanish families and soaked up the Iberian history, language and culture.

"We visited several museums," says Aubrey Cooley, senior psychology major and Spanish minor from Neosho, Mo. "I've never been a huge art lover but when you go there you can see the history and, once you understand the history, you appreciate more about the art."

Among the Spain Semester's highlights were a performance by Flamen-co Vivo Carlota Santana – the nation's premiere Spanish and flamenco dance company – and a visit by Nellie Bennett, author of "Only in Spain: A Foot-Stomping, Firecracker of a Memoir About Food, Flamenco and Falling in Love." The book was the common reader for students in the University Experience class during the fall semester.

Attendance for Spain Semester activities went beyond expectations, said Stebbins.

"I think it's because there is a greater inherent interest in the country," he said. "Next fall will be the Great Britain Semester. I expect to see attendance along the same line." 



Southern Safari headed to Cuba

By Dr. Chad Stebbins
Director, Institute of International Studies



Alumni and friends of MSSU will have the opportunity to see Cuba before it changes forever by traveling to Old Havana with the Southern Safari group from May 15-23, 2016.

When Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced last December that the United States and Cuba would restore full diplomatic ties for the first time in more than 50 years, the floodgates were opened for foreign investors and developers to completely remake the country that has been caught in a time warp since 1959.

Led by Dr. David Locher, MSSU professor of sociology, the Southern Safari “people-to-people” tour will leave Miami on May 16 for the short flight to Havana. (Participants are responsible for finding their own flight to Miami and hotel the day before.)

The program includes visits to a school, senior center, medical clinic, farmers’ market, community art project, artist’s studio and Ernest Hemingway’s “finca,” where he wrote “For Whom the Bell Tolls” and “The Old Man and the Sea.”

The group also will visit Vañales, a scenic rural valley west of Havana, and a nearby seaside community to get a sense of life in rural Cuba. We will have the opportunity to experience Cuban culture by sampling their food, attending dance and music performances, and dancing to Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Cost is \$2,975 for double occupancy, with a \$500 deposit due by Jan. 30. The price includes all breakfasts and lunches and two dinners, an English-speaking guide and accompanying bus driver, all scheduled land transportation in Cuba, and all sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary. Tips and departure taxes are not included.

The group will be accompanied by Paul Bardwil, president of Global Educational Facilitation, in Sacramento, Calif., who has led numerous specialized groups to Cuba.

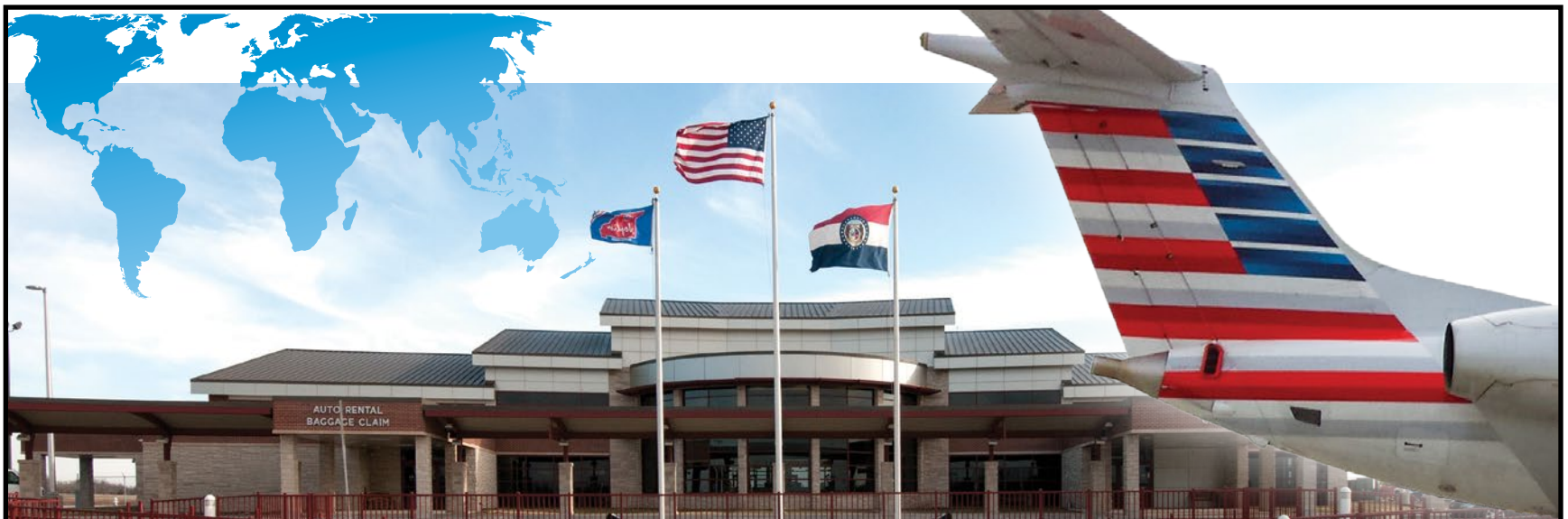
The trip includes at least four pre-departure sessions about Cuba in March/April 2016. This extensive orientation will set Southern Safari apart from other commercial trips, where participants often board the plane without any prior knowledge of where they are going.

For more details, please visit www.mssu.edu/safari.

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CULTURAL CALENDAR

ALL EVENTS FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

2015-2016



DECEMBER

Until Dec. 11

Senior Shows
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F

Dec. 1

Jazz Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Corley Auditorium

Dec. 1

Boutique Bonanza
Festive shopping experience open to all.
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center

Dec. 3

Southern Percussion Ensemble
7:30 p.m., Bud Walton Black Box Theatre

Dec. 4

Sixth Annual Seasonal Choral Flourish
Featuring Southern Concert Chorale,
Chamber Singers and Jazz Unlimited
7:30 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church,
812 Pearl Ave.

Dec. 5

Seasonal Choral Flourish
7:30 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church,
812 Pearl Ave.

Dec. 5-6

"Christmas at the Old Toy Store" (children's play)
2:30 p.m., Taylor Performing Arts Center
Adults/MSSU students \$3;
Children 12 and under, \$1
Details: 417-625-3190 or
www.mssu.edu/ticket-office

Dec. 8

Southern Wind Ensemble Winter Concert
7:30 p.m., Taylor Performing Arts Center

Dec. 10

Family Movie Film: "Minions"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

Dec. 10

Combined Wind Ensembles Concert:
Missouri Southern and Joplin High School
Time TBA, Joplin High School

JANUARY

Jan. 11 to Jan. 27

K-12 Show
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F

Jan. 14

Family Film: "Space Jam"
6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

Jan. 18

16th annual MLK Celebration Breakfast
8 – 10 a.m., Connor Ballroom
\$10 per person/children under 6 free
Details: 417-659-5465 or www.mssu.edu

FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 - 18

"Character"
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F (Reception 1-3 p.m.
on Saturday, Feb. 6)

Feb. 2 - 6

"This is Our Youth"
7:30 p.m., Bud Walton Theatre
Free for MSSU students; \$5 for adults; \$3 for
seniors and other students
Rated M
Details: 417-625-3190 or
www.mssu.edu/ticket-office

Feb. 9

Healthy Relationships Movie: "Gimme Shelter"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

Feb. 11

Wellness Movie: "Strange Magic"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater



"Straw to Gold"
Spring 2015

Feb. 22 to March 16

"Handymen: Justin Shaw and Marco Rosichelli"
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M – F
Artist Talk: 3 – 4 p.m., Feb. 22
Opening reception: 4 – 6 p.m., Feb. 22

Feb. 26

Pro Musica presents Grammy award-winning
Chanticleer
Central Christian Center, 410 S. Virginia
Pre-concert featuring MSSU Choral group,
6:30 p.m.
Donations appreciated.

MARCH**March 1**

Continuing Film Series: "The Suitor"
("Le Soupirant")
7 p.m., Cornell Auditorium

March 1 - 5

"The Threepenny Opera"
7:30 p.m., Bud Walton Theatre
MSSU students, \$4; adults,
\$10/senior citizens, \$8
Details: 417-625-3190 or
www.mssu.edu/ticket-office

March 10

Wellness Film: "Strange Magic"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

March 15

Continuing Film Series: "I Live in Fear"
("Ikimono no Kiroku")
7:30 p.m., Cornell Auditorium

March 18

MSSU Wind Ensemble Concert
7:30 p.m., Taylor Performing Arts Center

March 28 to April 22

"Cathy B. and Dee S . . . Face to Face"
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M – F
Artist Talk: 3 – 4 p.m., April 22
Closing Reception: 4 – 6 p.m., April 22

March 29

Wellness Movie: "Bully"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

March 29

Continuing Film Series: "Hands Over the City"
("Le mani sulla città")
7:30 p.m., Cornell Auditorium

APRIL**April 4**

Wellness Film: "Pride"
2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 5

Wellness Film: "Woman in Gold"
2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 6

Wellness Film: "Suffragette"
2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 7

Wellness Film: "Temple Grandin"
2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 8

Wellness Film: "Black and White"
2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 9

World Music & Cuisine Festival
5 – 8:30 p.m., Connor Ballroom, BSC
Small charge for food samples, free music.

April 10

Choral Concert
3 p.m., Central Christian Center, 410 S. Virginia

April 12

Continuing Film Series: "Innocent Sorcerers"
("Niewinni Czarodzieje")
7 p.m., Cornell Auditorium

April 14

Wellness Film: "The Good Dinosaur"
2:30 and 6:30 p.m., Phelps Theater

April 15

Jazz Combos performance
6 – 8 p.m., Gusano's
3929 E. Seventh St., Joplin

April 23 - 24

"Commedia Princess and the Pea"
2:30 p.m., Taylor Performing Arts Center
MSSU students/adults \$3;
children 12 and under, \$1.
Details: 417-625-3190 or
www.mssu.edu/ticket-office

April 25 to May 6

Senior Shows
Spiva Art Gallery
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. M – F

April 28

Symphony Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., Taylor Performing Arts Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.MSSU.EDU/CALENDAR

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For some people, taking a new job might mean moving to a different city or state.

But for Drew Fethers, it meant crossing the Pacific Ocean.

Having graduated from Missouri Southern in 2003 with a degree in theater, Fethers was teaching at Crowder College when the job offer came in – a teaching position at a school in Nanjing, China. The school is run by Dipont, the largest of several education companies in China.

“They offered me a very good job,” he says. “I thought it would be a great experience, so I just went over there and did it.”

“If I do a lecture, I have to break it down into chunks,” he says. “I say something, then a translator interprets it. Then there is a pause as they try to figure out what she and I are saying. Sometimes they get it. Other times they don’t have a clue.”

He says he is finding new ways to communicate new ideas to the students. As a result, his classes often include improvisation, pantomime and drama games.

“I am trying to give my kids a little of everything. If we do Shakespeare, I try to tone it down and do a sonnet.”

Fethers is just one of a growing number of Missouri Southern alums who have found fulfilling careers abroad after getting their degree. Finding that “not-so-ordinary job” outside of their comfort zone is exciting to see, said Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute for International Studies.

“I think we will see even more MSSU graduates follow their examples in the years to come,” he said. “Working abroad is a great way to gain some immediate experience and enhance your resume. These grads will be even more marketable to potential employers when and if they decide to return to the U.S.”

DREW FETHERS: One of the ‘expats’

Fethers says his students are eager to learn.

“Chinese students are really curious about drama,” he says. “They are

good students. They are interested and engaged but they’re very quiet. They don’t ask too many questions.

“They’re also a lot like American kids — addicted to cell phones.”

Nanjing, (also known as Nanking), located on the eastern side of China, has an urban population of about six million people.

Fethers describes Nanjing as a city filled with pagodas and temples but also many modern buildings. He says he sees many “expats” there, primarily British and Australian but also some Americans.

“I eat a lot of Chinese food but also Western food. McDonalds, Burger King, Starbucks are all there.”

He says Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut and The Gap are also making inroads in China.

Fethers says he was happy to return to China earlier this fall to begin teaching again. “I am definitely excited about what the next year holds,” he said.

SAMANTHA ZOLTANSKI: The write stuff

“I just took a deep breath, got on the airplane by myself and hoped I would find this man at Melbourne airport holding a sign that said ‘Samantha Zoltanski.’”

Taking that first step made Zoltanski nervous, but it wasn’t her first experience overseas. In April of 2013, she attended the International Media Seminar in Paris with Missouri Southern’s Communication Department. The trip sparked her interest in pursuing more international opportunities.

She worked with Stebbins to procure an internship in Australia. From



May through August 2015, she visited multiple community newspapers throughout the country. The internship led to several job offers, and she accepted the position of editor and multimedia designer for the Huon News in Tasmania, Australia.



"I have been in shock multiple times when I realize how much I use my degree in my everyday work," Zoltanski says.

She says the skills she learned at Missouri Southern have helped her develop relationships with co-workers and community members. Her experience with Crossroads, The Chart, the Public Relations Student Society of America and as publicity manager for the university's theater department were

valuable opportunities that enabled her to try new things.

"Having those experiences taught me so much and made my time at MSSU one that I will never forget," says Zoltanski.

After being hired by the newspaper in Tasmania, her biggest challenge was writing about a town that she didn't know much about.

"I found just getting out there, doing your research and being completely honest is the best way to go," she says. "Sometimes I even got a better story out of it because the person could not assume I know the history and the background."

MARSHALL POOLE: **Becoming fully integrated**



To say that Marshall Poole's study abroad experience was life-changing would be a bit of an understatement.

The year before Poole graduated from Missouri Southern with a degree in English in 2000, he studied in Sunderland, England, where he met a French exchange student, Julie.

They are now married, and he is working as an English teacher at prestigious prep school in Lyon, France.

Poole's experiences during that year abroad helped prepare him for life overseas.

"It was my first time abroad, so the experience opened my eyes to the world outside the U.S. It is difficult to (imagine) how I could ever have managed to be where I am today without having done that exchange," he says.

While he was offered a university teaching position in Lyon immediately following his graduation from Southern, he did face some obstacles to life abroad.

"For me personally, the biggest challenge was linguistic," he says. "It was easy enough finding work as a freelance English teacher, but to be fully integrated in France, one has to speak and write as well as a French person. That was obviously a prerequisite in passing the French teaching exam."

After practicing his French language skills by teaching English at the university level, Poole passed the French teaching exam. He is now preparing for the highest level teaching exam. Even though he only knew basic French, Poole says that he felt excited rather than concerned when he moved to Lyon.

"I'd just graduated, already had a job lined up and was moving to France to be with the woman I love," he says. "What was there to be worried about?"

RHONDA BENZ: **Putting education to immediate use**



Unlike other students, Rhonda Benz got her start working overseas well before graduation.

A Carthage native, she and her husband, Mark, established the Bykota House children's home in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, a decade ago.

"We got involved in mission work through an international adoption," says Benz. "My husband and I had five biological children but still felt like our nest was empty. We began researching international adoption and our hearts were drawn to Cambodia.

"We were in a real stall for a long time, but we learned more about Cambodia and the need for adoptions. We thought (the plan) was to bring two children who needed parents to a family in America. But the Lord used that to take our family to Cambodia. We served under another ministry while we acclimated and learned the language, got our feet on the ground and established a Christian children's home."

While running the home, which currently serves 19 children, Benz decided to continue her education online through Missouri Southern. She enrolled as a transfer student, having previously earned an associate's degree through Crowder College. In May, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in general studies.

Benz is in the midst of a yearlong sabbatical before returning to Cambodia, and says her experience getting her degree couldn't have been better.

"The assignments and research I did for class helped me with my work (at the children's home)," she says. "I had to make lesson plans, so I could turn them in, walk downstairs and use them. My professors were so psyched to see someone's education be immediately put to use." **C**

BUILDING BOOM

————— *Campus experiencing historic period of growth* —————



Kayla Willis pulls back one of the bar stool chairs and takes a seat at the kitchen island.

“We love this spot,” she says. “It’s a great place for us to sit around and talk.”

She and her three roommates have only been living in the Quads for a few weeks, but it’s something she spent the last year anticipating. Throughout the fall and spring semesters of the 2014-15 school year, Willis, a sophomore health science and business major, would walk past the construction site, taking in the progress as the six buildings began to take shape. “I was so excited. I signed up the first day we could register.”

The apartment-style units were far from the only area of construction on campus at that time.

“It was almost like a controlled chaos,” says Justin Jennings, a senior criminal justice major.

Far from a criticism, Jennings says he marveled at the university’s capacity to pull off several major construction projects at the same time.

“From the new baseball stadium to the End Zone Facility, Quads and now Reynolds Hall getting remodeled, it seems like everyone loves it,” he says.

The sight of construction crews and the sound of heavy equipment have become familiar over the last two years, and the fruits of this campus building boom have finally come to bear.

No less than five major projects – totaling more than \$30 million – have helped to reshape Missouri Southern’s landscape over the last few semesters. It’s progress on a scale not seen since a groundbreaking for the new campus was held on the grounds of the Mission Hills estate in 1966.

“The residence halls and the FEMA shelter were planned together,” says Robert Yust, vice president for business affairs. “The fundraising for the baseball stadium, the End Zone Facility and new turf for the football field all happened on different time frames, but it all happened to coincide at the same time.”



THE QUADS

Ground was broken for the three-story residence hall complex on May 1, 2014.

Located adjacent to the existing dorms, the complex consists of six buildings and 51 students apartments, the majority of which have four bedrooms (hence the name “The Quads”). Joplin’s R.E. Smith served as construction manager and contractor for the \$14-million project, which was completed in time for the start of the fall semester.

Speaking just as a student who lives in one of the new buildings, Jennings says he enjoys living in a place that “feels more like home.”

“It feels more like living in an apartment,” he says. “You have your own bedroom, a kitchen, a microwave. And having our own washer and dryer is a lifesaver.”

Jennings also looks at his new home from the perspective of his role as a Resident Assistant, working to assist other students who live on campus. The transition to the Quads was a surprisingly easy one, he says.



"It was a surprise to me how people seemed to mature moving from Blaine Hall into the Quads," he says. "Everyone here has had experience living in the dorms and seemed to look at it as 'this is an opportunity for me to get my own place.'"

FEMA SHELTER

As work continued on The Quads, another new structure went up directly adjacent to them.

An 11,000-square-foot FEMA shelter – also constructed by R.E. Smith and designed to hold 2,000 people – was turned over to the university in May.

"(The campus) tornado sirens are tied into the city tornado siren system," says Bob Harrington, director of the university's Physical Plant. "When Joplin activates the sirens on the north side of the city, the doors will automatically unlock."

The total cost for the shelter was just over \$2 million, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover 75 percent of the eligible cost.

NORTH END ZONE FACILITY

The weight room is packed on this Tuesday morning as members of the Lions football team gather for one of their three-a-week training sessions. It's early, but there's plenty of energy being expended – the sounds of weights crashing down fill the room as they complete their reps on the new, MSSU-branded equipment.

"It's definitely an exciting feeling," says Mike Nelson, a senior physical education major and wide receiver for the football team. "We have all new equipment right next to the locker room, and we're right next to the field. Everything is here."

The North End Zone Facility was completed in time for the start of the fall semester, providing an eye-catching addition to Fred G. Hughes Stadium and a resource for student-athletes, alumni and fans.

The \$9 million project was developed through the university's partnership with Freeman Health System and other donors. Crews from R.E. Smith began construction in the spring of 2014.

Its completion marked the realization of a dream shared by members of a steering committee assembled nearly a decade ago. At nearly 45,000

square feet, the building houses locker rooms for multiple sports, an athletic training room, meeting rooms, a Hall of Fame, offices for coaching staff and an alumni event center.

"This state-of-the-art building is one of, if not the best, strength and training facilities in all of Division II," says Jared Bruggeman, Missouri Southern's director of athletics.

"I love being in this beautiful facility," says Nelson. "It's great being able to walk out right onto the field rather than have to walk across the street. It really brings a new energy to the team."

Also in place for the start of the football season was brand new turf, thanks to a sponsorship by Mercy Hospital Joplin.

Featuring Mercy's logo in two locations, the turf is 120 yards in length and 70 yards in width. Work began to remove the old turf – which had reached the end of its useful lifetime – in mid-summer.

WARREN TURNER FIELD

On a sunny February morning, just days before the Lions baseball team made their season debut at the campus' new baseball stadium, it was hard to miss the spring in the players' steps as they made their way across the pristine turf.

"It's nice to be able to have a field we can call our own," says Tee Helsel, the Lions' first baseman.

Formed in 1972, the Lions baseball team initially played on the flood plain below Spiva Library before moving to Joplin's historic Joe Becker Stadium. While a wonderful place to play, it posed challenges in terms of transportation for athletes and students, having to share the field with other programs and a lack of training facilities for injured players.

"We have a great relationship with the city and Joe Becker, but it was clear the best thing for our student-athletes was to be on campus and have a facility easily accessible to the student body," says head coach Bryce Darnell.

The \$2.5 million project was made possible through a fundraising campaign initiated by the MSSU Baseball Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Missouri Southern Foundation. Ground was broken during a ceremony held Sept. 25, 2014.



The new stadium – designed by Corner Greer & Associates, with Crossland Construction overseeing the building – includes amenities such as state-of-the-art synthetic turf, regulation lighting, batting cages and bullpens, fan seating for 600 and a modern concessions area. A donor wall offers thanks to those who made the project possible.

The stadium was formally dedicated on April 18, with the announcement that it had been named Warren Turner Field.

During his 31 seasons as head coach (1977-2007), Turner won 852 games. Five teams made it two the World Series, took a Central States Intercollegiate Conference title, three MIAA South Division titles and two conference championships in the MIAA.

In their inaugural season at the new stadium, the Lions proved they were more than able to live up to the legacy of the field's namesake. The team earned an MIAA conference championship and a berth in the NCAA tournament.

REYNOLDS HALL PROJECT



While the landscape of Missouri Southern's campus has been reshaped over the last two years, work isn't finished.

"Critical" is the term Dr. Michael Garoutte uses when describing the necessity of the renovations and remodeling set to begin next year in Reynolds Hall.

"But, we're good at taking care of what we have, which


is why we've been able to function in the same facilities for 50 years," says Garoutte.

Completed in May of 1967, Reynolds was the second building on what was then the campus of Missouri Southern College. An expansion in 1988 nearly doubled its size at a time when a rapid increase in enrollment was straining the capacity of the relatively new campus.

Today, Reynolds Hall houses the biology, environmental health, physical sciences and mathematics programs. The coursework offered in the building is in high demand, as it provides prerequisites to nursing and allied health students.

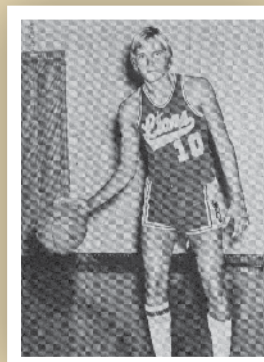
During two visits to campus of the last year, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon announced funding that will allow for much-needed renovations. He recently signed House Bill 19, which will provide \$5.2 million for the project, as well as House Bill 17, which contains an additional \$1.5 million – an amount that will be matched by the university.

The design process allowed those taking part to think toward the future by laying out classrooms and labs more suited to facilitate learning.

"From my perspective, the best part has been contemplating what we can do academically in a renovated facility that we can't do now," says Dr. Paula Carson, Missouri Southern's provost/vice president of academic affairs. 

'A great experience'

Alum recalls '70s dorm life



While nearly three decades have passed, John Cochran can remember the challenges of living on the Missouri Southern campus ... sharing close quarters with a roommate, trying to find a good time to do laundry, finding things to do on the weekends.

They're stories that will likely ring familiar to today's students – al-

beit without some of the modern conveniences available in the new residence hall complex.

Today, Cochran is a successful insurance agent in Moberly, Mo. From 1976 to 1978, he was a transfer student from Moberly Area Community College. The physical education major and basketball player lived in the Missouri Southern men's dorm with a friend from high school.

What were the residence halls like in those days?

"Oh, they were very basic," he recalls. "Small rooms with tiny closets or no closets. We had two people to a room, stacked on top of each other. 'Basic' is a nice word for it."

Cochran remembers making the trudge every morning to the communal showers. Then came the long walk to the cafeteria in the basement of Billingsly Student Center.

"That was every day, rain, shine and whatever," he says.

Cochran remembers having fun at Missouri Southern. Students from the men's and women's dorms would get together to play pool and socialize.

"Laundry was a challenge," he recalls. "There was a washer and dryer but a lot of people had to use it. So we would go off campus to a laundromat."

"We wore the same pair of jeans a lot of days," he says, laughing.

In 1977, the movie "Saturday Night Fever" took America by storm.

"Disco fever hit really big," Cochran says. "The Bee Gees had 'Night Fever' and lots of other hit songs. We lived too far away to go home on weekends. We went to the mall, watched a lot of movies and did a lot of walking around."

After two years, John received his degree in physical education.

"All in all, it was a great experience for me," he says. "It was something I wouldn't trade for anything. It propelled me to be successful in my life. I own a business. If I hadn't had that experience, I don't think I would be where I am today."

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SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Band students aim for the sky with '300 Trumpets'

*"We want this to be an
epic moment."*

Flanked by a marching band 600 members strong, Dontae Winslow meant business. Seven area high-school bands joined Missouri Southern State University's marching band on Sept. 3 to accompany Winslow for the debut performance of the song "300 Trumpets Hit the Sky."

The single was released on iTunes later that evening, capping a busy 48 hours of work to make it possible, said Brian Fronzaglia, director of athletic bands.


"We went into the recording studio at Victory (Ministry & Sports Complex) to record individual tracks, and then record our full band the next night," he said. "The mass band performance was recorded and after halftime was over, we sent the recording off for some final touches and the single dropped that night."

It marked Winslow's second collaboration with the Missouri Southern band, after performing with them during a 2014 halftime show.

An accomplished jazz musician, Winslow has worked with artists such as Justin Timberlake (included as part of the band for the singer's "20/20 Experience World Tour"), Jill Scott, Christina Aguilera, Lauren Hill, Common and Snoop Dogg. As a producer/songwriter/arranger, he has worked with Jay-Z, Kanye West, Kendrick Lamar and Keyshia Cole, among others.

He recently performed on and arranged the horn parts for Dr. Dre's new album, "Compton," which serves as the soundtrack to the hit film "Straight Outta Compton."

"I was inspired by the movie '300,'" said Winslow of the song he composed. "I wanted it to be a story of sacrifice that uses the cultural elements of marching band style, jazz, classical music and R&B gospel mixed with hip-hop/trap music."

"I wanted the words to be uplifting and inspiring, to help kids believe in themselves. I know how hard it was for me to struggle to make it where I am today." 



Mural celebrates Joplin's ties to baseball

A group of art students created a mural celebrating the history of baseball in Joplin, which was unveiled before the Joplin Blast-ers' final game of the season on Aug. 30.

The idea for the three-panel, 8-by-16-foot mural – which depicts Joe Becker and Mickey Mantle – originated with Leadership Joplin, a program of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. Missouri Southern's Focal Point student art organization was asked to create it.

"The idea was to represent the history of Joe Becker Stadium and the history of Joplin as well," said Burt Bucher, associate professor of art. "The students designed it. They went through six or seven design ideas and Leadership Joplin voted for the one they liked."

Becker was a professional umpire and scout who served as business manager for the Joplin Miners minor league baseball team from 1936-42, and later as a pitching coach for the Brooklyn Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs. Mantle played for the Miners in 1950 on his way up to Major League Baseball and a successful 17 years with the New York Yankees.

"The idea kept evolving over a period of several weeks," said Lydia Humphreys, a sophomore art major who served as one of the lead designers. "Leadership Joplin liked this one, but they wanted to incorporate Route 66 and we also added the Joplin skyline." **C**

TV station honored for education coverage

K GCS – the television station at Missouri Southern – received state-wide recognition this fall from the Missouri State Teachers Association.

That station received the Media Award for Television General Coverage/Honorable Mention, which was presented for "excellent coverage of education." Kisa Clark, a lecturer in the Department of Communication, accepted the award during a recognition dinner on Sept. 21 in Springfield.

Programming during the last year at KGCS included segments on education on "Newsmakers," replays of Joplin School Board meetings and a candidate forum for candidates seeking spots on the board. **C**

Southern launches bachelor's in social work program

A total of 17 students are working to get their bachelor's degree in social work from Missouri Southern.

Announced in the spring of 2015, the degree program is coming at a time when social workers are in high demand.

"Demand is outpacing the supply of social workers," said Dr. Renee White, department chair. "It's very much a growing field. Most people think of social work as child welfare, but that's just one piece ... there's a vast field of work outside of that."

Admission to the degree program is by application. Students will start in their junior year. The four-semester program includes an internship with a local non-profit organization in the community.

"They'll partner with a social worker at an agency to get hands-on skills," said White, who has had 33 years of experience as a social worker prior to joining the university. "It will be wonderful to watch students come into their own." **C**



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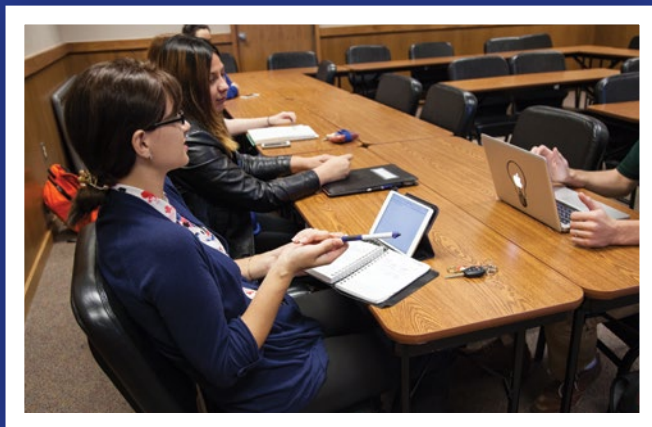
Four graduate from Master of Accountancy program

During Spring 2015 commencement ceremonies, the first four students graduated with their Master of Accountancy degrees.

Students graduating with the degree were Samantha DeGraw, Carl Junction; Taylor McDaniel, Seneca; Lindsey Yager, Joplin; and Ashley Stephens, Joplin.

The on-campus program requires 30 credit hours for completion. It also offers a special accelerated track that allows students who meet the requirements to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Accountancy at the same time. **C**

Students defend NASBITE competition championship



Students from Missouri Southern's Plaster School of Business have entered the 2015-16 NASBITE International Student Case Competition as the defending champions.

The five-member team is working on a 20-page analysis that involves the Ohio-based Cleveland Whiskey, which is looking to expand globally – specifically into Singapore. Papers are blind-reviewed, with the top three teams invited to make presentations at the NASBITE convention April 4-8 in Newport, Rhode Island.

Team members are Holly Loncarich, of Fairview; Josh Foster, Carterville; Cynthia Salas, Purdy; Aliza Fahle, Joplin; and Viktoriya Johnson, an international student from Belarus.

"I'm excited about it. I think it's going to be a comprehensive case," said Loncarich, an international business major who was on the winning team in the last competition. "Last year, it was more on the market entry/market selection side of things. This year, we'll focus more on the international side, looking at strategic positioning."

The team from Missouri Southern took first place in the inaugural competition, working on an international marketing problem on behalf of Essex Industries of St. Louis. Their competitors in the finals were teams from Cleveland State University and the University of Northern Iowa.

The competition is open to all colleges and universities that have an academic business program at the undergraduate level. Teams must consist of 3-5 students who are pursuing a degree in business.

While the companies at the heart of the competition invariably do their own market research, the event offers additional perspective that can be beneficial to them.

"Consulting is expensive," said Dr. Chris Moos, associate professor of international business and the team's advisor. "These are student teams, but every team has a faculty mentor and the company will be getting three different viewpoints to consider. That is valuable." **C**

IET students put theory into practice

Industrial Engineering Technology students are getting a chance to apply what they've learned in real-life situations.

A number of the courses in the IET department require industry-focused projects, typically geared toward increasing productivity and quality, or reducing cost through management of people, methods and technology. This semester, students have been placed at EaglePicher Technologies, Flexlator, Justin Brands, Able Manufacturing and FAG Bearing-Schaeffler Group.

Having a chance to apply what they've learned in real-world settings has a number of advantages, said Dr. Elke Howe, chair of the engineering department.

"Students are able to connect the dots between theory and practice," she said. "They put their hard skills into action but also experience soft skills like communicating with company employees or working on a team made up of people from different functional areas within a company." **C**



Viktoryia Johnson receives award from accreditation council

Senior human resource management major and Belarusian exchange student Viktoryia Johnson was awarded the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs' Region 5 Sponsored Award in August of this year.

Johnson received the \$500 award based on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, character and service to the institution and community. What helped her most, she said, was encouragement from her advisors at the Robert W. Plaster School of Business.

"I feel that what was most influential was my recommendations from advisors," said Johnson. "They taught me how to show my leadership skills, what I can achieve and why I deserve this award."

She also spoke of the importance of involvement, and how membership in the business honors society Delta Mu Delta benefits students by providing opportunities for networking, leadership training and experience in the field.

Johnson began studying at Missouri Southern in fall of 2012 in part to improve her skills in speaking English, her fourth language. She chose to major in Human Resource Management in order to improve the treatment of employees in the professional setting. **C**





SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Amid national shortage, MSSU's Special Education program on the rise

Each year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and similar departments from other states report to the U.S. Department of Education on teacher shortage areas, by subject.

Special education is consistently on the list for nearly every state.

None of that deterred Brooke White, 2004 MSSU alumna and special education teacher at Joplin High School. She said she was motivated to teach students with special needs early in life.

"My mother taught Special Education," she said. "In high school, I was a teacher's assistant in a class that served multi-handicapped students. I did it for two years and loved it. I knew what I wanted to do when I got to college."

One problem that has plagued the field over the years is a high attrition rate, up to 50 percent according to some national studies.

"I don't think anyone truly understands everything we do until you're here," White said. "No amount of classes or observation prepares you for the amount of paperwork or involvement in student's lives."

Dr. Deborah Brown, interim dean of the School of Education, said the Special Education program is growing due to a concerted recruitment and retention effort.

"One of the foundational courses in Special Education has a current enrollment of 16 students compared with five students in fall of 2014 and three students in fall 2013," she said. "It's exciting to see this generation of students want to serve special needs students."

Several approaches exist in teaching Special Education students. These include self-contained classrooms, resource classrooms – where students follow general education curriculum but at a different pace – and co-taught classrooms, where both a general education teacher and a special education teacher oversee the class.

White said she has been lucky to have excellent para-professionals assisting in her self-contained classroom. Right now she has up to three, which is a typical amount.

**Brooke
White**



“The payoff in this career is seeing your students become independent,” White said. “At first, they rely on you for so much – self-care, just getting around the building.

“When they get to senior year and they are able to do job shadowing or even find jobs, it is a very proud moment because you know you helped them get there.” **C**

CAEP holds accreditation visit for Teacher Education

On Sept. 27-29, officials from the Council for Accreditation of Education (CAEP) began their review of the Teacher Education program.

Missouri Southern will be the first school in the state to meet the new standards for evaluation since a new agency for accreditation was created last year.

In 2014, the boards of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education met in Washington, D.C., and voted unanimously to consolidate educator accreditation under the new agency.

Dr. Deborah Brown, chair of the School of Education, said evaluators visited the Missouri Southern State University campus and talked to administrators and teachers in area public schools.

The goal will be to determine how graduates from Missouri Southern State University are performing in their various subject areas.

The results of the accreditation visit will be announced in April 2016. **C**

Elementary Education program up and running in Jane

Students south of Joplin have an opportunity closer to home to complete a degree in Elementary Education.

Located inside the Crowder College McDonald County Instruction Center in Jane, Mo., MSSU’s new facility allows students to complete their degree without having to travel to Joplin.

Lorinda Hackett, interim chair of the Teacher Education Department, said students are taking hybrid classes. They go to classes two days a week in Jane, take online classes and take part in an internship in local schools.



“We have provided the students with Chrome books,” Hackett said. “This is a pilot program for that but if it works, we will continue it.”

Because they live in the Lion Pride Tuition territory, those students also qualify for in-state tuition.

For more information about the Jane program, contact Matt Beaver (beaver-m@mssu.edu) at 417-659-4318 or Carissa Gober (gober-c@mssu.edu) at 417-625-9676. **C**

Master’s program available online

Missouri Southern’s Master of Science in Education, Curriculum & Instruction degree is now available totally online.

Students take six hours per semester (fall, spring and summer) and can finish in six semesters. The program and instruction is perfect for professional educators who want to continue their education around their busy schedules.

“We are pleased to make this available for classroom teachers,” said Dr. Deborah Brown. “It will not only alleviate scheduling and logistical conflicts of working professionals and families, but also will allow individuals to take the courses from anywhere in the world.”

The program welcomes applicants who wish to further their professional careers in education and strengthen their commitment to developing high-quality curriculum instructional capabilities.

Lorinda Hackett believes in the program and its ability to support not only graduate students, but the educational community as a whole.

“The Curriculum and Instruction program provides a continuation of the sound educational principles and best practices that foster viable teaching in collaboration with our candidates and professors who double as stakeholders in our educational community,” Hackett said.

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Maggie Beachner, Teacher Education Graduate Coordinator, at beachner-m@mssu.edu for more information or to apply. **C**



SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Radiology adds additional X-ray laboratory

The MSSU Radiology Technology Department has a new X-ray laboratory.

The room became operational during the fall 2015 semester, according to Alan Schiska, chair of the department. The \$30,000 cost of the new equipment was funded by a Perkins grant.

No structural changes were necessary: The room for the laboratory was fitted with lead-lined walls when the Julio Léon Health Science Building was built in 2010.

The room's AMERICON table is fitted with a grid system to improve X-ray contrast. A digital Computed Radiography (CR) system allows for re-use of image receptor plates.

Schiska said the new lab will allow for better space utilization.

"It will keep us from having to divide the class into two sections," he said. "As teacher, I will rotate between two adjoining labs and the students will get more hands-on experience." **C**

Dental clinics to offer laser therapy beginning January 2016

There is something new coming to Missouri Southern's dental hygiene clinics in Joplin, Rolla and Sikeston.

Stacie Scrivner, dental hygiene department chair, said faculty will begin periodontal laser therapy training in January.

"The SIROLaser Advance units we will have are on the forefront of technology today," Scrivner said. "They provide another safe, effective tool for treating gum disease."

Periodontal disease is a major factor in tooth loss. Essentially an infection, the disease affects gum tissue and can have other repercussions on health.

The units will be provided to the Missouri Southern Dental Hy-

giene Clinic in Joplin, as well as clinics in Rolla and Sikeston.

Clinic hours are 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the spring, summer and fall semesters. All students work under the supervision of faculty members and a supervising dentist.

The three clinics provide dental cleanings, X-rays and other preventive services. Children over age 5, students, people with special needs and senior citizens are accepted.

The cost is \$20 for the public and alumni, and \$10 for MSSU students. Services such as extractions, dentures, fillings and crowns are not available. For more information, contact dentalhygiene@mssu.edu. **C**



MSSU students take part in casualty drill

On Sept. 22-24, a number of Missouri Southern EMT and paramedic students took part in a mass casualty exercise.

Overseen by the Joplin Fire Department, the drill involved a bus rollover on a curve on Dennis Weaver Drive. It helped train and familiarize crews in the START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) method.

Thad Torix, MSSU EMS Instructor, said volunteers from Missouri Southern primarily played the part of victims.

"We want to make sure students graduate with increased affective skills," Torix said. "That's the ability of the provider to see things on an emotional level."

Such drills help students see the role of the provider from the victim's point of view, he said. They teach students to understand the anxiety and discomfort patients feel while being treated or are asked to wait during the triage process.

Medics train at Missouri Southern

Ten medics with the 184th Medical Group, Kansas Air National Guard spent several days this summer at Missouri Southern undergoing training.

The medics from McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., trained with EMS staff from the university. They also heard guest lecturers from Mercy Hospital Springfield's burn unit and Life Line, the hospital's air transport service for emergency patients.

"It's a refresher training," said Brett Peine, director of the EMS Department. "They went through trauma training, pediatrics, obstetrics, medical emergencies, lifting and moving ... a little bit of everything."

"These Guard members could encounter just about any scenario as part of their jobs," Peine said. "We're more than glad to provide this type of training."

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2015-2016

11.08.15	@ ARKANSAS (EXHIBITION)	2:00 PM	01.07.16	VS. SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	5:30 PM
11.13.15	@ OKLAHOMA BAPTIST	12:00 PM	01.09.16	VS. CENTRAL MISSOURI	1:00 PM
11.14.15	@ SOUTHWESTERN OK. STATE	5:00 PM	01.16.16	@ PITTSBURG STATE	1:30 PM
11.18.15	VS. MINNESOTA STATE	5:30 PM	01.21.16	@ LINCOLN	5:30 PM
11.21.15	@ TRUMAN	1:00 PM	01.23.16	@ LINDENWOOD	1:00 PM
11.24.15	VS. AVILA	5:30 PM	01.27.16	@ NORTHWEST MISSOURI	5:30 PM
11.28.15	VS. ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD	1:00 PM	01.30.16	VS. MISSOURI WESTERN	1:00 PM
12.03.15	VS. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA	5:30 PM	02.04.16	@ EMPORIA	5:30 PM
12.05.15	VS. NORTHEASTERN STATE	1:00 PM	02.06.16	@ WASHBURN	5:00 PM
12.09.15	VS. NORTHWEST MISSOURI	5:30 PM	02.11.16	VS. NEBRASKA KEARNEY	5:30 PM
12.12.15	@ MISSOURI WESTERN	1:30 PM	02.13.16	VS. FORT HAYS STATE	1:00 PM
12.16.15	VS. EMPORIA STATE	5:30 PM	02.18.16	@ SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	5:30 PM
12.19.15	VS. WASHBURN	1:00 PM	02.20.16	@ CENTRAL MISSOURI	1:30 PM
01.02.16	@ NEBRASKA KEARNEY	5:30 PM	02.27.16	VS. PITTSBURG STATE	1:00 PM
01.04.16	@ FORT HAYS STATE	5:30 PM			



MEN'S BASKETBALL 2015-2016

11.13.15	VS. ST. CLOUD STATE	7:00 PM	01.07.16	VS. SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	7:30 PM
11.14.15	VS. MINNESOTA STATE	5:00 PM	01.09.16	VS. CENTRAL MISSOURI	3:00 PM
11.18.15	VS. ARK. - FORT SMITH	7:30 PM	01.16.16	@ PITTSBURG STATE	3:30 PM
11.21.15	@ WILLIAM JEWELL	3:00 PM	01.21.16	@ LINCOLN	7:30 PM
11.23.15	@ ROCKHURST	6:00 PM	01.23.16	@ LINDENWOOD	3:00 PM
11.28.15	@ ARKANSAS TECH	3:00 PM	01.27.16	@ NORTHWEST MISSOURI	7:30 PM
12.03.15	VS. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA	7:30 PM	01.30.16	VS. MISSOURI WESTERN	3:00 PM
12.05.15	VS. NORTHEASTERN STATE	3:00 PM	02.04.16	@ EMPORIA	7:30 PM
12.09.15	VS. NORTHWEST MISSOURI	7:30 PM	02.06.16	@ WASHBURN	7:00 PM
12.12.15	@ MISSOURI WESTERN	3:30 PM	02.11.16	VS. NEBRASKA KEARNEY	7:30 PM
12.16.15	VS. EMPORIA STATE	7:30 PM	02.13.16	VS. FORT HAYS STATE	3:00 PM
12.19.15	VS. WASHBURN	3:00 PM	02.18.16	@ SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	7:30 PM
01.02.16	@ NEBRASKA KEARNEY	7:30 PM	02.20.16	@ CENTRAL MISSOURI	3:30 PM
01.04.16	@ FORT HAYS STATE	7:30 PM	02.27.16	VS. PITTSBURG STATE	3:00 PM

***ALL KIDS 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE TO ALL HOME REGULAR SEASON SPORTING EVENTS**

LIONS ATHLETICS



Coaches, athletes travel overseas for exhibition tour



Hubbard and Corn

Members of the men's and women's basketball team were among a group which traveled to Brazil in August as part of a 10-day exhibition tour.

"Ron Smith, who I've known my whole life, put the trip together," said Robert Corn, former head coach for Missouri Southern's men's basketball team and the director of alumni relations for athletics. "He coached at Southern Illinois University and Iowa State, and started putting together these tours for USA Sports Tours & Events.

"He had been doing it for Division III for several years and approached me to put together men's and women's Division II teams."

The tours can become "fantastic lifetime memories for our athletes, coaches, administration, families and boosters," Smith states on his website.

Teams of nine men and women from Missouri Southern, Pittsburg State, Emporia and other schools in the MIAA arrived in Brazil on Aug. 3, along with coaching staff. Both teams ended the tour with a 3-1 record against international teams. Some games were played in open-air gymnasiums.

Along the way, they saw sights such as Sugarloaf Mountain and the famous Christ the Redeemer Statue, enjoyed a stay on the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro and toured facilities that will be utilized by Olympic athletes in 2016.

"I was really impressed with the way the girls handled that kind of travel," said Ronda Hubbard, women's basketball coach and coach for the women's team in Brazil. "We beat a professional team during a really hard-fought game ... a couple of the games were very competitive."

Corn said the country's beauty far exceeded any expectations he had for the trip.

"The biggest thing was the opportunity to see a beautiful country and enjoy a different culture," he said. "And any time you can play teams from another country, it's a big deal." **C**

Learning about America's pastime - International students participate in baseball clinic



For Husam Yassin, it was an enjoyable experience – playing the game of baseball, rather than just watching.

The Jordanian student was one of nearly 30 international students who learned about "America's pastime" during a spring clinic hosted by the Missouri Southern baseball team.

"It was one of the best events for international students," said Yassin, who has continued to play catch with his friends following the clinic.

Coaches and players taught the fundamentals of the game during the clinic, which was held at the new baseball stadium. Participants were

recognized during the MSSU vs. Lincoln game. Shemron Modeste – a student from the British Virgin Islands who was selected as "Most Improved Player" – threw the ceremonial first pitch, and everyone was treated to a traditional baseball meal of grilled hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn and Cracker Jacks.

Head coach Bryce Darnell said the team was able to demonstrate why the game has such a special place in American culture.

"The coaches and players at Missouri Southern love baseball and we enjoyed sharing that love for the game with our international students," he said.

The first-time event was funded through a \$1,100 diversity grant from the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

"The idea is to find ways to integrate more people into athletics," said Randon Coffey, director of athletic marketing and corporate sales. "We came up with the concept of teaching our international students about American baseball and just ran with it." **C**



Athletics Hall of Fame 2015

The Missouri Southern Athletics Department celebrated the 2015 Athletics Hall of Fame Class as four individuals were enshrined as part of Hall of Fame Weekend on September 18-19.

The list includes four former student-athletes from the sports of football, men's soccer, men's basketball and women's track and field: **Mary (Garrett) Still** (women's track and field, 2000-04), **Terry Shumpert** (men's basketball, 1998-02), **Michael Bryson** (men's soccer, 1980-84), and **Josh Chapman** (football, 1999-02).

The newest class attended a social on Sept. 18 and were inducted during a luncheon the following day. The group was introduced as new Hall of Fame members at halftime of the Lions' football game vs. Nebraska-Kearney.

With the addition of the 2015 class, the Hall of Fame now includes 113 members and two teams. **C**

'Gear head' - Coach Denver Johnson's enjoys getting his hand dirty with car collection



Denver Johnson took the reins of the Missouri Southern State University football program on April 1 and has since hit the ground running.

However, there's a side of him that few may know. He is, as he says, a "gear head." If you can pour gas in it, it goes fast and makes loud noises, he's interested.

Over the years, Johnson's wife, Danita, and daughters – Taylor, 26, and Kelsey, 24 – have come to accept his hobby.

Johnson says his first car was a 1953 Chevy pickup. The truck was a six cylinder with a three on the tree; the passenger's side floorboard was rusted out.

"The first 'good' car that I ever bought was a '66 Mustang," he says. "Not long after that, I had worked and saved up some money, made a trade and got a 1955 Chevrolet. I would give anything to get that car back."

Over time, the collection grew. A few years ago, Johnson says he had more than 40 cars. Some were "barn finds" – cars kept pristine for years in barns.

Johnson says one of the real joys of having his cars is working on them and getting his hands dirty.

"To feel that you kind of created something there, where you can customize it and make it your own, is fun," he says. "If you have a car where they made 100,000 of them, that's one thing. But if you change it up and make it your own, it's yours."

"I have a 1970 Plymouth Superbird Daytona, a 1969 Charger and a Hemi Barracuda. The three of those are the trifecta of muscle cars. The favorite of all those is the Charger. It was a barn find of mine."

Johnson says the Charger was owned by a soldier killed in Vietnam and he purchased it from the boy's parents. He told the couple that once he was done restoring it, he'd offer the car back to them to re-sell. However, the soldier's mother, although very touched, said it was where it should be with Johnson now.

"You know, I have a Corvette, but they're not really made for taller guys. If I could get into one, I'd probably have a dozen of them and be completely bankrupt."

He also collects boats and motorcycles.

"I have a favorite bike (Harley Davidson CVO Road Glide) because it's one that my wife Danita and I can ride together."

One of the most fun to drive in his collection, Johnson says, is his 1987 Buick Grand National.

"That car (Grand National), isn't perfect cosmetically, but it is really fun to drive," he says. "It is really fast." **C**



NONE THE WISER

Southern students make inroads in local, regional music scenes

When None the Wiser took the stage at JB's Downtown Joplin as part of Joplin's new Zerkapalooza music festival, it marked something of a turning point for the band.

Not only was the late August performance in front of their biggest audience yet, it marked the first big show with a solid lineup and a chance to further establish themselves in the Joplin music scene.

The indie rock band's lineup features four Missouri Southern students – Jake Messer, Drake Smelser, Sevrin Eldred and Ngosa “G” Simbvakula.

In March, None the Wiser released an album, “Full Circle,” on a variety of Internet platforms, including Spotify, Amazon and Google Play. The album showcases the band's indie influences as well as its acoustic roots, and its ability to weave its way through folk, melodic numbers and big pop choruses.

During their performance at Zerkapalooza, None the Wiser had a chance to perform on the same stage as Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin, an indie pop band from Springfield, Mo., that grew into a national act after forming in 1999.

That band's career trajectory is one that members of None the Wiser would love to emulate.

“Right now, we're in the beginning stages of trying to become a regional band,” said Smelser. “From there, we'd love to become a national act. That's how Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin gained national popularity. They're able to go across country, book shows and sell out venues.”

Recent shows have stretched beyond Joplin to include performances in Mount Vernon, Wichita, Kan., and Pittsburg, Kan. The Zerkapalooza performance stood out, however, as it allowed the band to continue making inroads in the local music scene while becoming part of the #BringBackTheHall movement – a push to raise funds to make renovations to Joplin's Memorial Hall and restore its place as a hub for live music.

Jon Buck, the organizer of Zerkapalooza, said 3,000 people attended the three-day festival, which featured 70 bands on nine stages. A portion of the proceeds raised during the event will go toward repairs needed at Memorial Hall.

Buck said that having None the Wiser and other acts featuring Missouri Southern students can help to bolster Joplin's music scene.

“It's a very positive thing that they're taking a more active role,” he said, adding that Columbia and Springfield are examples of the kind of thriving music towns that Joplin could become. “But you have to have college bands in the music scene to help create that kind of lifestyle.” **C**

Jake Messer

LIGHTS, camera, action!

Physics students take DIY approach to building particle detector

It's typically a project undertaken by a post-doctoral researcher, a few graduate students, and one that can cost thousands (even tens of thousands) of dollars.

But Dr. David McKee – an assistant professor of physical science at Missouri Southern State University – and three undergraduate students have created a particle detector with not much more than \$700, a bit of ingenuity and a do-it-yourself approach. It's a combination that has attracted attention from such organizations as Inside Science and Popular Mechanics and could result in an affordable design that other schools can utilize as a teaching aid.

"You can get a radiation-monitoring app for your phone that uses a camera chip to give you a rough idea of the radiation environment," says McKee. "It's pretty clever, but it doesn't tell you what kind of particle it was or how energetic it was. I wanted to try to do better."

Using a Sony A3000 digital camera chosen for its low light sensitivity, McKee and three of his students – junior physics and math major Kristina Pritchard, senior physics major Shemiah Khopang and junior physics major Chase Garrett – set out to see if they could modify the device into a ring-imaging Cherenkov detector that could measure subatomic particles.

"How ring imaging works, essentially, is that you need a radiator – a medium in which subatomic particles can pass through," says Khopang.

McKee says that when such devices are built for particle physics experiments, they tend to be larger – a meter squared isn't uncommon. But the radiator used for the camera was considerably smaller – not quite 3 square centimeters.

"It sounded like we were reaching for the stars on this one," says Pritchard. "We took (the camera) apart and back together again at least 20 times."

Modifications made to the camera included replacing the glass lens with one made of magnesium fluoride, which subatomic particles

known as muons ("Like an electron except 200 times as massive," says McKee) pass through and create Cherenkov radiation that could potentially be captured by the camera.

"The easiest way to explain it is that it's the light equivalent of a sonic boom captured by the camera," says Garrett, explaining the changes in speed that create a cone of light visible to the camera's detectors.

It was a matter of trial and error to assemble the particle detector – and some extremely good luck in tracking down a supply of extremely hard-to-find 1.7 mm screws – but the camera was able to successfully capture the Cherenkov radiation emitted as a particle passed through.

Earlier this year, Pritchard discussed the project during an American Physical Society meeting in Baltimore, Md.

"The press pretty much lined up (to talk about it) after it was over," she says. "They were impressed that we made a particle detector for such little money."

Pritchard also penned an article about the project for the summer issue of *The SPS Observer*, the magazine of the Society of Physics Students.

While essentially an experiment, McKee says it is one that provided his students with valuable research experience and that still has plenty of practical applications.

"We have a few other projects we might be able to do with it, such as taking it underground and measuring the rate at which the muon flux is shielded by the earth above," he says. "Another possibility is that if we can automate that data-taking, we may take it into a cave system and look up at the roof at different angles to try to find the hollows in the rocks between the surface and where we put it – a project called muon tomography. That's somewhat ambitious, but we may try it anyway."

"Long term, I'd like to use this to build a board which has a sensitive light detector and radiator in it and then create plans or constructed devices that can be sold to other schools as a teaching aid." C



**Shemiah
Khopang**

CLASS NOTES

1970s

Sherrel Lawhon, '73, has authored a book, "The Clock that Wouldn't Tick."

Robert Corn, '76, was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Michael W. Johnston, '77, is psychologist at California State University in Long Beach, California. He has also served as the director of clinical training for the doctoral internship that has been accredited by the American Psychological Association for the past 15 years.

Linda S. Gordan, '78, is an associate professor in the Division of Education at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo.

Robert L. Gordon, '78, is a PLC field coordinator for the Department of Special Education at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

1980s

Eric L. Brown, '81, owner of Dataium, a U.S. company that provides essential business intelligence and analysis to the automotive industry, sold his company to IHS, Inc. (NYSE: HIS).

Jean Campbell, '86, has been named as chair of the year-long 100th celebration of the Progress Club in Sarcoxie, Mo.

Carmen (Campbell) Wilke, '86, has been named to the board of directors of the National Shoe Travelers Association, providing members with education and networking opportunities for fellow members and vendors.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, was named as one of 2015's Most Influential Women by the Joplin Regional Business Journal. She was also re-elected to the Carthage, Mo., R-9 school board for a three-year term and was elected secretary/treasurer of the Carthage Community Foundation Board of Directors.

Jenny Richards, '86, was named the 2015-16 chairwoman of the Missouri Concrete Association.

Eric Browne, '89, is the managing director of enterprise sales for Cohere Communications in New York, N.Y.

Kim Jones, '89, has been an Information Technology Services professional for more than 18 years. He is married with three children and two grandchildren. Kim also is

certified in Project Management from Stanford University and is currently working as a consultant for the Monsanto Corporation. He is currently writing a book, a self-help and session counseling guide for men who are currently facing the struggle of caring for a terminally ill spouse – "Vicarious Cancer: How Her Illness is Making Me Sick."

1990s

Maria "Masha" Trainor, '97, is vice president and general counsel at Ampco-Pittsburg Corporation in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Todd Pefferman, '98, a CPA and partner at BKD Accountants & Advisors, LLC in Oklahoma City, Okla., was honored as a 2015 Trailblazer by the Oklahoma Society of CPAs.

2000s

Jennifer R. Tyler, '01, is the director of annual giving at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla.

Jeff B. Woodmansee, '03, serves as assistant professor of law librarianship at the UALR Bowen School of Law. He was recently appointed to serve a three-year term to the AALL Digital Access to Legal Information Committee and co-authored a legislative survey of states currently offering tax incentives to attract angel investment for entrepreneurs recently published in Tax Notes and State Tax Notes.

Jason Edgar, '04, has been named director of speech and debate at Missouri Western State University beginning this fall. Edgar will also be an instructor in the Department of Communication and Journalism.

Teyoni (Wilson) Tuck, '08, is a family nurse practitioner at Mercy Clinic Family Medicine in Webb City, Mo.

Erin Whelan, '08, is a controller for Nestle Purina in Zanesville, Ohio.

Sheryl Arambula, '12, published an article in the July 21 edition of Translational Psychiatry. She is currently a Ph.D. student in the W.M. Keck Center for Behavioral Biology at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C.

Patricia Caviness, '12, is bilingual staff registered nurse at Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center in Riverside, Calif.

Chelsea Jones, '12, is a T.A. entertainment stage manager at Hollywood Studios for the Disney Group.

Michael Price, '12, has been awarded a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual MD/Ph.D. Fellowship for the remainder of his M.D./Ph.D. training to study the role of alcohol in airway disease, specifically mucociliary clearance. He is pursuing a combined degree at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He also published a paper in the March 2015 Issue of the American Journal of Physiology–Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology entitled "Inhibition of Protein Phosphatase 1 Reverses Alcohol-Induced Ciliary Dysfunction."

Brandon Weaver, '12, is an infrastructure engineer on the Build and Deployment Automation Support System team at Sony Network Entertainment International and presented at the HTML5DevConf in San Francisco, Calif., in October.

Shelby (Tinney) Edge, '13, started medical school at Kansas City University of Medical Biosciences in Kansas City, Mo.

Zelina (Ambrosius) Haas, '13, was accepted into the Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience's Biomedical Ethics master's program.

Jessica Hursh, '13, was accepted to the food safety master of science program at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.

Jordanne (Wright) Adolphsen, '14, has been accepted to the Creighton University Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Dalton Brothers, '14, was accepted to the University of Missouri at St. Louis Doctor of Optometry program.

Meagan Jones, '14, is the customer service manager at Carthage Water and Electric in Carthage, Mo.

Katie Tinney, '14, is an emergency nurse at Mercy Hospital in Joplin.

Abby Bayless, '15, has accepted an offer by the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine to join the Fall 2015 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class.

Brook Gipson, '15, accepted a position with Ingram Micro in Buffalo, N.Y.

Danielle Severns, '15, started medical school this fall at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Derek Stockes, '15, started medical school this fall at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

MARRIAGES

Spencer and Jentri (White, '10) Whitford, were married on May 17, 2014.

Trent and Chloe (Spears, '15) McMain, were married on Dec. 13, 2014.

Kyle, '13, and Courtney Hicks were married on May 2, 2015.

Blake and Sarah (Joles, '09) Slagle, were married on May 30, 2015.

Evan, '13, and Whitney (Triplett '14) Baker were married on June 20, 2015.

Kelom and Sara (Ayres, '08) Kennard, were married on Aug. 1, 2015.

LION CUBS

Aaron, '04, and Diana Baker welcomed their first child, **Cora Helen**, on Dec. 1, 2014.

John Cranden and Annie Epperson, '15, welcomed son, **Lincoln Cranden**, on May 14, 2015.

Spenser and Lauren Replogle (Dunn, '14), welcomed daughter, **Maelah Rose**, on July 30, 2015.

Jose, '98, and Angela Suarez, '00, welcomed **Lucia Mae** on Sept. 15, 2015. She joins proud brothers **Jay and Lucas**.

Craig, '08, and Laura (Kastl, '09) Gullett welcomed their second baby boy, **Parker Wesley**, on Sept. 18, 2015. He joins big brother, **Truman**.

Ely and Kristen (Dunn, '12) Epperson, welcomed son, **Bryson John**, on Sept. 27, 2015.

Nick, '08 and Teyoni (Wilson, '08), Tuck, welcomed daughter, **Tatum**, on Sept. 29, 2015.

Ronnie and Ashlee (Russell, '09) Rust, welcomed son, **Isaiah Gordon**, on Oct. 9, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

Joplin Junior College

Verda (Kunce) Morgan
Feb. 22, 2015

Gene Blevins
March 8, 2015

Mindy Apfel, '51
April 19, 2015

Doris J. Hoover
April 21, 2015

William L. Foster
May 17, 2015

Myrl D. Gunn
June 26, 2015

Sallie L. (Farris) Cupp
July 6, 2015

Donald G. Howard
Aug. 2, 2015

Mary "Eleanor" McPheeters
Aug. 4, 2015

Doris Daniels
Sept. 6, 2015

Verna I. (Sill) Johnson
Sept. 10, 2015

Gayleen E. Cox
Sept. 29, 2015

Mona McCombs
Oct. 5, 2015

Missouri Southern

Billy J. Pearish, '80
Feb. 13, 2015

Michelle L. Pippin, '13
Feb. 14, 2015

Michelle J. (Jenkins) Carpenter, '82
Feb. 16, 2015

Roger D. Sisco, '72
Feb. 28, 2015

Loren J. Olson
Former Board of Regent
March 1, 2015

Robert L. Green, '76
March 7, 2015

Robert E. Edman Jr., '82
March 13, 2015

Lovern F. Ellis
March 18, 2015

Catherine "Olivia" Combs
March 23, 2015

Cathy White, '73
March 26, 2015

Hazel "Trij" Brietzke
Theatre Department/instructor
April 18, 2015

Clovis "Gene" Steele
May 5, 2015

Robert Paul Laptad
Lionbackers/charter member
May 6, 2015

Patricia K. Freeman, '01
May 7, 2015

Mary "Lisa" Hardee
May 9, 2015

Larry David Black
Security guard
May 12, 2015

Kathaleen S. Westfall
May 17, 2015

R. Wade Utter, '05
May 20, 2015

Stuart F. Hoover
June 3, 2015

Tammara L. Burch, '88
June 17, 2015

Mitchel L. Hillyer, '89
June 14, 2015

David R. Doennig, '70
June 25, 2015

Joseph K. Roberson
July 4, 2015

Keith L. Hilsabeck, '74
July 12, 2015

Brian Nowlin, '88
July 30, 2015

Christy Cruzan White, '91
Aug. 2, 2015

Emma Laura Rush Gillogly
Aug. 4, 2015

Virginia (Ginny) A. Wallace, '07
Aug. 16, 2015

Robert C. Stringer, '10
Aug. 25, 2015

Sylvia K. Hensley
Sept. 5, 2015

Hailey (Knewton) Carter
Sept. 6, 2015

Bessie Mae (Tyler) Gibson Johnson
Art Department/instructor
Sept. 6, 2015

Lola Mae Hess, '81
Sept. 11, 2015

Susan K. (Hopkins) Beasley, '85
Sept. 17, 2015

Milton Brietzke
Theatre Department/chair
Sept. 25, 2015

Diane Sharits, '06
Sept. 29, 2015

Sherry "Nana" Taylor
Staff member
Oct. 13, 2015

David K. Rand, '91
Oct. 14, 2015

'I'm MOSO proud'

A conversation with Brandon Williams

The Baltimore Ravens' full-team training camp is well underway, and Brandon Williams sounds tired but confident when reached by phone after practice.

"It's going wonderful," said Williams of the team's effort on the field as they prepared for the start of the 2015 season. "The defensive line is looking good, and I'm doing good."

Williams, who played for the Lions at Missouri Southern and was drafted by the Ravens in 2013, posted career highs in 2014 as a defensive tackle. Going into the start of this season, he took a few minutes to reflect back on his time at the university, why he thinks it's important to stay connected and gaining viral fame for some slick dance moves.

Do you feel like your time at Missouri Southern prepared you for the NFL?

"It did, definitely. We went through adversity together, and I feel like I took a bit from each coach that I had. During my senior year, Coach (Jay) Thomas got me prepared the most. He helped with my hand and foot work, making sure position-wise I was set up. Coach (Daryl) Daye kept me up to speed about what to expect from the NFL. It was an amazing boost my senior year to prepare for it."

How important is it to stay connected to your alma mater?


"It means a lot. Through the great times, the trials and tribulations, Missouri Southern molded me into the man I am today. I'm Joplin strong and MOSO proud."

I appreciate the Joplin community as a whole for being there, supporting me and supporting the team. I want to give back. Later in my career when I get settled a bit more in the NFL, I'd like to maybe have a camp day for kids in the Joplin community to have fun, play and give them a positive message."

What do you miss most about your time at Missouri Southern?

"I miss the guys, the team, the brotherhood, my friends and joking around. Football is work now. We had more fun after the game, just hanging out. I keep in touch with them, but I miss seeing them every day."

It looks like you're still having fun. Videos of some of your locker room dance moves are making rounds on Instagram. Is this going to become a regular thing?

"It was a spur of the moment thing. The last one I posted (doing "The Carlton") was something from two years ago. I didn't think they'd catch on that way. Who knows, maybe one day I might be on 'Dancing with the Stars.'" 



Why I Give

Don & Christy Swanson



A history of family support of Missouri Southern State University has been among the factors that have led Don Swanson to also become a valued backer of the university.

"My uncle (Dr. Donald Crockett) was a donor for the university," said Swanson. "He was on the Foundation board, so there's some history there."

A 1977 graduate who majored in marketing, he now works as a financial advisor for Edward Jones. He is a member of the Foundation board and the investment committee.

He and his wife, Christy, were among the donors for the new baseball stadium. They also recently participated in the Southern Match program, establishing a scholarship that will benefit students from Joplin High School.

"Our son, Michael, is attending the University of Arkansas and received a local scholarship," Swanson said. "Attending the awards banquet drove home how important this kind of support is to kids who need it. I think that whet our appetite, seeing this first hand. It feels good to do something when we can help.

"I think we have the crown jewel of the area here. We offer a quality education ... an affordable education. It's a great asset that can support area students."

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